

7 North State Capitol
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953
(608) 266-1194
Fax: (608) 282-3667



JEFF WOOD

State Representative • 67th Assembly District

District: 1501 Miles Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
(715) 726-9226
Rep.Woodj@legis.state.wi.us
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0067

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness
From: Rep. Jeff Wood
Date: April 3, 2007
Re: Testimony for AB 123 Relating to the Frequency of Wage Payments to Volunteer Fire Fighters

Good morning Chairperson Ballweg and Members of the Committee, and thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 123. This bill was drafted by Senator Kreitlow and me on behalf of the New Auburn Area Fire Department, a volunteer fire department, to allow a volunteer fire fighter to be paid semiannually or annually. This can only be done if both the volunteer fire fighter and the fire department employing him or her agree upon such a payment schedule.

Although most employees in the workforce are required to be paid at least monthly, current law provides an exception to logging and farm workers and school employees similar to the exception provided by this bill. The New Auburn Area Fire Department had been utilizing the wage payment schedule provided by this bill before they were informed a change in statute would be required for them to continue the practice.

The benefits to the department include reduced administrative costs, and many fire fighters enjoy the single pay check as a "bonus" for their volunteer work for the year. Again, each individual volunteer fire fighter would have the option of this payment schedule.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on AB 123 today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

NEW AUBURN AREA FIRE DEPT., INC.
148 EAST ELM STREET
P. O. BOX 172
NEW AUBURN, WI 54757

March 28, 2007

Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness
% Representative Jeff Wood
P. O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness:

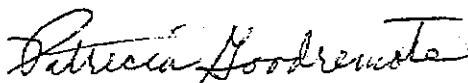
Please support Assembly Bill #123, which would include language in Wisconsin State Statute 109.03(1) that would exempt volunteer fire departments from having to make at least monthly payments for services of their firemen.

Many of these payments are very minimal, which could for example be less than \$20 per month, and with a roster of 20-25 firemen this amounts to an excessive cost for payroll checks, bookkeeping, etc. for our department. Our operating funds are mainly from already overburdened taxpayers; therefore, we feel that as long as the firemen are agreeable to any less frequency of payment, this should be acceptable.

The Secretary and Treasurer of our fire corporation are paid quite minimally, which is as it should be, as our funds should be used mainly for fighting fires, first-responder services, etc., and not for administrative costs.

Thank you kindly for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Patricia Goodremote
Secretary

Chris Carlson, President/Director

Gary Pitts, Vice-President/Director

Orville Hoveland, Director

John Christianson, Director

Dennis Henry, Director

David Skaw, Director

Michael Kellen, Director

Karen Klingenberg, Director

